

IN THE POLITICAL FIELD.

Missouri held two state conventions this year. The first one was held at Springfield and was called the judicial convention. At that convention candidates for the supreme court were nominated. It will be remembered that the resolutions committee in the Springfield convention reported a platform which ignored the national platform. A minority report providing for the indorsement of the Kansas City platform was prepared by David R. Ball, and the minority report was adopted by a vote of 501 to 199.

The second convention was really the state convention proper and met at St. Joseph, July 22. This convention nominated John A. Knott of Hannibal and Joseph Rice of Moberly to be railroad and warehouse commissioners and William T. Carrington of Springfield to be state superintendent of public schools. The platform adopted indorsed the administration of Governor Dockery and related largely to state affairs. No fight was made on those sections of the platform dealing with national affairs.

That portion of the Missouri (St. Joseph) platform referring to national questions was as follows:

First—The democrats of Missouri in representative convention assembled at St. Joseph, indorse and affirm the democratic national platform adopted at Kansas City in 1900.

Second—We are opposed to the Fowler bank bill, the new republican financial measure which has been favorably reported by a republican committee and is now pending before congress, having the indorsement of republican leaders.

Third—We condemn the dishonest paltering with the trust evil by the republican administration and we especially condemn the subserviency to the trusts of our "strenuous" president, who, only a few days before Mr. McKinley's assassination, boldly proclaimed in public speech at Minneapolis that trusts are an evil which the public safety requires should be promptly and mercilessly destroyed, but who, since his accession to the presidency, has struck not one effective blow against them, although holding in his hands all the necessary powers of government, and who, instead of executing his threat to exterminate the trusts, talks now only of regulating them.

Fourth—We condemn the alarming waste of the people's money in extravagant appropriations by a republican congress, now amounting to more than \$1,000,000,000 per year, and we heartily approve the course of our democratic representatives in congress in sturdily resisting this riotous profligacy and in standing steadfastly for economy in public expenditures and for just principles of government.

Fifth—The assassination of the president of the United States by a self-confessed anarchist is deeply deplored. The recent assassination of the governor of Kentucky by political anarchists who fled to Indiana, where they are now protected by the governor of that state, is also deeply deplored. We denounce anarchy in all its forms and declare that it should not be permitted to find an abiding place in this country.

The democrats of North Carolina held their state convention July 17. That portion of the North Carolina platform relating to national questions is as follows:

We reaffirm our allegiance to the democratic party and its policy as enunciated in its national platform.

We denounce the policy of imperialism inaugurated by the republican national administration, and declare it to

be obnoxious to our forms of government and fraught with danger to the very existence of the republic.

We denounce as oppressive and illegal those combinations of capital known as trusts and monopolies that stifle competition, throttle individual effort and destroy the generous spirit of rivalry that should exist in the commercial world.

We denounce the deceptive and illusory course of the republican party in congress, in furthering the existence of the trusts by its refusal to enact legislation restraining them and to enforce in good faith the existing laws against them, that party being in full control of all branches of the government.

We denounce the present iniquitous, unjust and trust-creating protective tariff, imposed upon the people by the republican party and demand its immediate revision to the end that all unjust burdens shall be removed, and especially those upon necessities of life. Its provisions enable the trusts to extort from the people unreasonable profits and to sell their products to consumers at home at greater prices than are charged for the same goods to the foreign consumer. We demand, therefore, that all such trust-made goods be placed on the free list.

Josephus Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, wired to his paper an interesting account of the North Carolina convention, from which account the following is taken:

The chief discussion in the committee and in the convention grew out of the minority report signed by H. A. London and N. A. Sinclair on the question of indorsing the Kansas City platform. The plank as presented by the committee read thus:

"We reaffirm our allegiance to the democratic party and its policy as enunciated in its national platform."

The minority presented this substitute:

"For the words 'we reaffirm our allegiance to the democratic party and its principles as enunciated in its national platform,' the words 'we reaffirm our allegiance to the fundamental principles of the democratic party.'"

There was much debate in the committee over the proper wording of this declaration.

Quite a number of the party leaders, most of whom were ardent believers in the Kansas City platform, believed it wisest, all things considered, to make a general declaration of allegiance to "fundamental democratic principles," rather than to specifically declare "as enunciated in its national platform." Before the committee they asked to be heard, they made their argument, the committee considered their well presented views, and then wisely resolved to let the plank stand "as enunciated in the national platform."

Those who were zealous for a general declaration were so strongly of the opinion that their position was correct that they carried the fight on the floor of the convention, and sought to secure the adoption of the minority declaration. The debate was participated in exclusively by men whose devotion to the Kansas City platform was not open to question. Some strong speeches were made on both sides, notably those by C. M. Busbee, A. C. Avery and C. L. Abernathy, for the minority, and for the majority by Senator Ward, Senator Caremon Morrison, J. J. Loughinghouse, R. L. Stevens, and Congressman W. W. Kitchen. It is no lack of prate of the other speeches to say that the speech of Mr. Kitchen was "the" speech of the convention. A synopsis has already appeared in these columns. I have not missed a democratic convention since Governor Scales was nominated, and I

do not hesitate to say that I have never heard a speech in a democratic convention that surpassed Mr. Kitchen's speech last night.

It would have been most unfortunate and unwise, after the direct issue had been raised, to have voted down a declaration reaffirming the national democratic platform, and the convention sustained its general reputation for wisdom by voting to indorse it by a large majority. The last national platform is the party's chart until another is written, and any action that would indicate any back down from the declarations in that platform would have put the democrats on the defensive from the opening to the close of the campaign. It may be, as some of our leaders believe, that the discussion did good. But if the vote had been against reaffirmation, it would have been, in my judgment, the one mistake of the convention. As it voted to sustain the majority report, all is well.

The New England democratic league opened the campaign at Nantasket, Mass., July 24. Mayor Patrick A. Collins of Boston presided, Edward M. Shepherd of New York, Senator Edward M. Carmack of Tennessee, and W. J. Bryan of Nebraska addressed the gathering. Col. A. W. Gaston and Charles S. Hamlin, rival candidates for the democratic gubernatorial nomination in Massachusetts, were also present, while Lewis Nixon of New York and Congressman Wilson of New York and Congressman John R. Thayer of Massachusetts were also conspicuous among the guests.

A special dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald under date of Boston, July 24, says: That the "way down east" leaders of democracy realize the importance of the "harmony" task that is before the party was unmistakably evidenced at the New England democratic league dinner at Nantasket this afternoon. Mr. Bryan's address was a gem of careful diplomatic utterance. His tribute to Cleveland dissenters was as stinging as it was artistic and as nicely rendered as it was studied.

The banqueters had a day of perfect weather and the audience at this speaking represented the best type of New England democracy.

Two things were made plain in the tone of the affair at Nantasket:

First—That Mr. Bryan still has a powerful hold on eastern democracy, and, second, that party is with him in the conclusion that anti-imperialism is the paramount issue in the coming national campaign.

Despite the effort and care of the promoters to distribute to a certainty the honors of the day, the league dinner came very near resulting as a special tribute to Mr. Bryan. The applause and enthusiasm for him kept steadily increasing and wound up with an impromptu reception for him at the close of the speech-making.

The Fly in the Amber.

This is the day we celebrate.

This is the day that we celebrate the independence of the United States of America.

It has been more than a hundred years since we threw off the British yoke and started out to paddle our own canoe. We have paddled very successfully up to the present time.

Since that original Independence Day we have branched out a bit and

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have come into possession of isles in the distant seas—isles peopled by a people who have the same longings for liberty that once actuated us to fight for that liberty—people who have hearts and consciences—who have homes and ambitions—people who love and hate and live and die just as we do.

Today President Roosevelt, the chief executive of the nation, which is noisily celebrating the anniversary of its independence, issues a proclamation freeing the political prisoners of the islands of the far seas, into which we have entered as owners. A general proclamation of amnesty is issued and those who fought for the liberty that we once fought for go free.

But they do not get the liberty. They do not secure the same treatment that we compelled England to accord us on and after one momentous Fourth of July. They do not get the representation in the government of their own islands that we compelled England to grant us, unwillingly though she did it. They do not even get the promise of independence as Cuba did. They don't even have a chance to have a Boston tea party.

They are released from jail. That's all. We have grown greedy since the tea party in Boston harbor, and are doing the same things now that England did in the long ago. We are governing a people by force and against their will.

But still we celebrate. This is the Fourth of July. This is Independence Day for every one beneath the stars and stripes except the Filipino.

Hurrah!—Hamilton (O.) Sun, July 4.